

Amendment
after final

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A method of forging a material, said method comprising:
adding a second material to a first material steel to obtain a third material, the second material comprising at least one metal from the group consisting of group VB metals;

heating the third material to a temperature in a range of 1150 - 1250 °C;

forging the heated third material to a prescribed shape;

cooling the forged third material;

holding the cooled forged third material in a tempering temperature area of a furnace at a temperature in a range of 500 - 700 °C; and

cooling the cooled forged material to a normal temperature by natural cooling, so that carbon and nitrides that include the second material may precipitate on the first material steel.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said holding comprises holding the cooled forged material for 30-60 minutes.

3. (Proposed Examiner's Amendment) A method of forging a steel material, said method comprising:

providing adding a second steel material to steel to obtain a third material, the second material comprising containing at least one element metal from the group consisting of group
consisting of V, Nb and Ta VB metals;

heating the third steel material to a temperature in a range of 1150 - 1250 °C;

forging the heated third steel material to a prescribed shape;

cooling the forged third steel material;

holding the cooled forged third steel material in a tempering temperature area of a furnace at a temperature in a range of 500 - 700 °C; and

cooling the cooled forged material to a normal temperature by natural cooling, so that carbon and nitrides that include V, Nb and Ta the second material precipitate on the steel material and a fine ferrite-perlite structure is formed.

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Correction

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December 19, 2003
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